

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/973,140

Examiner

Meless N. Zewdu

Applicant(s)

HOCTOR ET AL.

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/28/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-12.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/3/07</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on 2/28/07.
2. Claims 5 and 13-21 were previously cancelled.
3. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are pending in this action.
4. Examiner has found applicant's argument persuasive enough to remove the double patenting rejection, which was the only remaining issue and based on a later filed copending application.
5. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Tait R. Swanson (Reg. No. 48,226) on May 3, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend claims as follows:

In claim 1, on line 4, change "signals" into --- **a signal** ---

In claim 1, on line 4, cancel the phrase, "plurality of"

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In claim 1, on line 4, change "transmitters" into ---**transmitter** ---

In claim 1, on line 5, cancel the phrase, "plurality of"

In claim 1, on line 5, change "transmitters" into ---**transmitter** ---

In claim 1, on line 5, cancel the first 'each', located between the words 'transmitters' and 'being'.

In claim 1, on lines 5-6, replace the phrase, "each of the beacon transmitters" with the word ---**and** ---

In claim 1, on line 7, change the word "difference" into --- **differences** ---

In claim 1, on line 8, cancel the word, "respective",

In claim 1, on line 8, change "signals" into --- **the signal** ---

In claim 1, on line 8, cancel the phrase, "plurality of",

In claim 1, on line 8, change the word "transmitters" into --- **transmitter** ---

In claim 1, on line 11, change the word "difference" into --- **differences** ---

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 1-4 and 6-12: in general the claims are directed to locating a RF transmitter (or an object having a RF transmitter) using time difference arrival technique. However, the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest transmitting signals from a plurality of beacon transmitters to at least three receivers, the three receivers

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also receiving RF signal from the RF transmitting object, and said plurality of beacon transmitters each being at a known location and each having an independent local clock, as recited particularly in claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Meless N. Zewdu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7873. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Appiah Charles can be reached on (571) 272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600

Meless Zewdu

Examiner

03 May 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zewdu, Meless', written in a cursive style.